November 6, 1973

Provost Miller

Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics

Academic Advising for Students: Computer Models

Dear Bill,

     I do not have to tell you how difficult it is to implement effective
student advising within the framework of an elitist academic institution.
It is extremely difficult for professors who are motivated by other goals
to find the enormous amount of time that would be required to do well by
students' needs for guidance and information about academic programs. Nor
do I have to point out the tragic consequences of bad academic planning
on the part of the individual student.

     Have you ever given any thought to try to set up a computer assisted
system of advising, to provide a framework of problem posing and problem
solving for the student, and access to a somewhat nebulous data base, to
take at least some of the load from the faculty. The information given out
by knowledgeable faculty tends to be somewhat repetitious but is rarely
sufficiently stable to be usable in conventional printed format.

     I let you use your own imagination from there. It is also possible
that rephrasing an old problem from the standpoint of a newer technology
may ~~becenrage~~ encourage a fresh look at it.

                        Sincerely yours,

JL/rr
cc: Dean James Gibbs